



**Social Services Commission Minutes  
Monday, April 19, 2021**

**Roll Call:**

*Commissioners Present: Judith Ennis, Vice Chair; Donald Kalman; Rachael Fulp-Cooke; Susan Perez; Babu Vaitla, Chair; Georgina Valencia; Matthew Wise*  
*Commissioners Absent: None*

**1. Call to Order**

*Vaitla called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.*

**2. Approval of Agenda**

*Vaitla moved to approve the agenda, with a second by Fulp-Cooke.*

*Motion passed by the following vote:*

*AYES – Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Kalman, Perez, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise*

*NOES - None*

*ABSENT – None.*

**3. Brief Announcements from Staff, Commissioners, and Liaisons**

*Staff made the following announcements:*

- Council held their initial Goals Workshop on March 23, 2021 and will come back in May to review staff input. The input from the commission was helpful and appreciated.*
- Council discussed “Reimagining Public Safety” at their April 6, 2021 City Council Meeting. Council gave direction to move homeless outreach services from Police Department to the City Manager’s Office and set up a subcommittee to review mental health and law enforcement response.*
- Commission Appointments will take place City Council April 20, 2021*
- Climate Action and Adaptation Plan Community Workshop April 22, 2021 6:30 pm.*

**4. Public Comment**

*No public comment*

**5. Consent Items**

**A. Approval of Minutes – March 15, 2021**

*Valencia noted the following corrections to the minutes:*

- Change typo “no” to “not” on Page 2, Item B, second paragraph.*
- Change paragraph on item 8, paragraph A, second sentence, to read: “Valencia stated that in the marketing detail real estate agents should not mention that buyers should wait 60 days before making an offer, this seems to defeat to idea of the program.*

*Fulp-Cooke moved to approve the minutes with corrections, a second by Ennis.*

*Motion passed by the following vote:*

*AYES – Ennis, Fulp-Cooke, Kalman, Perez, Vaitla, Valencia, Wise*

*NOES - None*

*ABSENT – None*

## **Regular Items**

**A. Presentation: HEART of Davis Programs** – *Sarah Danley of HEART of Davis gave a presentation of their various programs to address homelessness. HEART of Davis is the new name of the group. It was previously known as Interfaith Rotating Winter Shelter. The new name represents the larger role the organization is taking to address homelessness issues in Davis. Danley discussed the Davis Emergency Shelter Program, the program extension, and the future Bridge Program. The new program has faced challenges but has experienced many successes in its first year.*

*Danley outlined the programs future priorities:*

- *HEART of Davis is hoping to open a non-congregate emergency shelter in the fall. Looking at Pacifico, an empty fraternity house, or other space, hopefully with funding coming down for this type of purpose.*
- *Exploring the possibility of having more landlords accept vouchers.*
- *Future funding options for the program includes: the American Rescue Plan Act, Project Homekey funding, Housing Trust Fund, and other private funding sources.*

*Public Comments:*

*Martha Teeter: Many volunteers helped to make this project happen. Has started to interview participants and finding that health/medical assistance has been critical, as has been linkages to the services.*

*Commissioner Questions and Discussion:*

*Vaitla asked about how volunteers can best be utilized now. HEART is looking to rebuild its volunteer program to assist with shopping, driving, spending time with participants (including time spent teaching participants. If there is an emergency shelter going forward, then will need volunteers.*

*Valencia expressed support for the program and the presentation. Interested in utilizing Pacifico.*

*Ennis asked for more information about landlord incentive program. Who would oversee it and how could Commission assist? Danley explained that HEART would try to coordinate but would take partnership of City, HEART, and landlords/property managers.*

*Vaitla: what is fiscal shortfall for HEART's programming? Cost per person is about \$2500/month but challenge is finding the units.*

*Joan Planell noted that the lack of housing is a major barrier and prevents full implementation of a model.*

**B. Update: Citywide Homelessness Programs** – *Dagoberto Fierros presented current city-wide programs related to homelessness.*

- *HEART's Davis Emergency Shelter and Bridge programs*
- *Pathways to Employment (uses HEAP funding, which must be used by the end of June this year). This program employs unsheltered individuals to give them skills and to assist the community. Davis Community Meals has overseen the program.*
- *Supportive Housing Program receives approximately \$66,000 per year from HUD and provides transitional housing at 1111 H Street and skills classes.*
- *Getting to Zero program – Yolo County Housing currently funded by CSBG funds for this program. Program provides rental and move-in assistance for homeless individuals.*
- *Project Roomkey is run by the County and houses vulnerable, unsheltered individuals in motel rooms. Also provides them with services.*
- *Daytime Respite Center has been operating for a year and has been extended for another year. The City runs the program in partnership with CommuniCare. It provides access to basic services and hygiene to individuals*
- *Paul's Place will include a resource center, service connections, emergency shelter beds, transitional beds, and permanent supportive housing (in microunits).*

*Public Comments:*

- *Patrick Odland – Suggested having roving trailers to serve homeless individuals in numerous capacities in mobile facility.*
- *Martha Teeter – Stated that many groups collaborate to tackle homelessness, including Davis Homelessness Alliance and DOVe in regards to the Paul's Place project.*

*Commissioner Comments:*

*Wise – Asked if the City is looking into what the City of Sacramento is doing about homelessness issues. Stachowicz responded that the City is using similar service models that are used in Sacramento.*

*Kalman – Expressed that the Commission should prioritize the creation of more affordable units.*

*Vaitla – Stated that the cost is fairly low to provide life changing help to homeless individuals. Vaitla expressed gratitude towards the numerous community partners tackling the issue of homelessness in the City.*

**C. Update: Affordable Housing Ordinance History** –

*Stachowicz shared a brief history update of the City's Housing Ordinance.*

*Vaitla and Wise asked staff to clarify various provisions and if the City has highlighted any issues that the housing element update can address in regards to the current affordable housing ordinance.*

*Stachowicz stated that the biggest issue the City is facing is designating where future affordable units can be built. Minimal discussion ensued.*

## **7. Additional Subcommittee Updates**

- A. Affordable Housing (Vaitla, Valencia, Kalman) – No update.
- B. Awareness and Outreach (Ennis) – Fulp-Cooke will join.
- C. Evidence/Research/Grants (Vaitla, Wise, Perez) – No update.
- D. Joint Subcommittee on Public Health and Safety (Perez, Vaitla, Wise) – No update.

*No public comment.*

## **8. Commission and Staff Communications**

Includes upcoming meeting items, events, subcommittee reports, reports on meetings attended, inter-jurisdictional bodies, inter-commission liaisons, etc.

### **A. Development Projects and Affordable Housing Properties Update**

Receive a verbal update from staff on any development projects set to be reviewed or recently reviewed by the Commission and any action on affordable ownership properties in the city

*Stachowicz stated there are 3 for sale units and 2 refinances. Staff is also working closely with the property managers of Creekside apartments to address current issues with the complex.*

### **B. Social Services Commission Long Range Calendar**

Review the current long-range calendar, discuss additional focus areas/items, and incorporate any changes/updates.

*Vaitla requested that staff make a few changes to the long-range calendar.*

*Ennis asked if new commissioners will start in the July meeting. Staff confirmed. Ennis suggested that a work plan and priorities be added to the July meeting to brief the new commissioners.*

*Fulp-Cooke expressed interest in knowing more on the City's plan on contracting with a new vendor to oversee the Affordable for-sale program. Stachowicz stated that the city could bring the recommendations to this commission in a future meeting.*

*Vaitla asked if the commission was interested in exploring reparations for various groups that have historically faced discrimination and racial inequality in Davis, in regards to social services issues, such as housing. Commissioners showed interest to bring up the topic at a future meeting.*

*Fierros stated that staff will continue reaching out to Davis Joint Unified School District to give a presentation on mental health initiatives at the school district.*

*Valencia asked what specific documents are reviewed by the City when an affordable home is being refinanced. Staff directed Valencia to email the question after the meeting, due to appropriate staff not being present at the meeting.*

*Public Comments:*

*Martha Teeter echoed Commissioner Kalman's comments that the City needs to increase its affordable base by creating or designating more affordable housing.*

**9. Adjourn**

*Vaitla moved to adjourn the meeting. Perez seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:43pm.*

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